

~~TOP SECRET~~

CIA 36149

29 March 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Deputy Assistant Director for Current Intelligence

SUBJECT: Critical Information

1. With reference to your draft memorandum on procedures to be followed on receipt of critical information, I have two comments to make:

- a. That this procedure should be made applicable only to Watch or Duty Officers as noted in Paragraph 1, and not to CIA personnel generally. I think it can be assumed that only personnel in these responsible positions ought to be the channels through which such critical information as you describe should be forwarded.
- b. That this procedure should pertain to evaluated intelligence information rather than simply information as stated in Paragraph 1. I say this because of the acute danger of circulating unevaluated information, however firmly believed in at the moment of transmittal, which can be almost as disastrous as a failure to receive information in time. I am thus somewhat puzzled by your implication that there might be circumstances when qualified CIA personnel would be calling the Agency from outside (i.e., away from intelligence channels) to provide such critical information.

2. Beyond this I think that the definition of critical information and the procedure for notifying other agencies is unexceptionable.

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